

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is directed to a method for repair defects in articular cartilage, and, more particularly, to a new method for performing automated microfracture surgery on subchondral bone to repair articular cartilage. The microfractured holes on the surface of the subchondral bone are formed with an automated process using a pneumatically driven ortho-  
5      pedic microfracture instrument. The instrument moves a fracture pin through the end of a guide tube until a sharp end of the fracture pin punctures or penetrates the subchondral bone plate and creates a microfracture or hole in the bone.